

Parent/Student Rights under Section 504

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, commonly referred to as Section 504, is a non-discrimination statute enacted by the United States Congress. The purpose of the Act is to prohibit discrimination and to assure that within the public schools disabled students have educational opportunities and benefits equal to those provided to non-disabled students.

An eligible student under Section 504 is a student who (a) currently has, (b) has a record of having, or (c) is regarded as having a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities. Major life activities include caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, working, and learning

Parents have the right to:

- Have the right to be informed by the school district of your rights under Section 504 (The purpose of this document form is to advise you of these rights)
- Have your child take part in, and receive benefits from public education programs without discrimination based on a disability.
- Receive notice with respect to identification, evaluation, or placement of your child.
- Have your child receive a free appropriate public education. This includes the right to be educated with non-disabled students to the maximum extent appropriate. It also includes the right to have the District make reasonable accommodations to allow your child an equal opportunity to participate in school and school-related activities.
- Have your child educated in facilities and receive services comparable to those provided students without disabilities.
- Have your child receive special education and related services if she/he is found to be eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), or to receive reasonable accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.
- Have eligibility and educational placement decisions made based upon a variety of information sources, and by individuals who know the student, the eligibility data, and placement options.
- Give your child an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities offered by the school District through the provision of reasonable accommodations.
- Examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding your child's identification, eligibility, educational program, and placement.
- Receive a response from the District to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of your child's records.
- Request amendment of your child's educational records if there is reasonable cause to believe that they are inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the privacy rights of your child. If the District refuses this request, it shall notify you within a reasonable time, and advise you of the right to a hearing.
- Request impartial due process hearing related to decisions regarding your child's identification, eligibility, and educational placement. You and your child may take part in the hearing and have an attorney represent you at your own cost.
- File a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights when you believe your child's rights have been violated.

Office of Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Education
32 Old Slip, 26th Floor
New York, NY 10005-2500
Telephone: 646-428-3900
FAX: 646-428-3843; TDD: 877-521-2172
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